United States Environmental Protection Agency | Office of Water (4303T) | EPA-821-F-05-005 May 2005

# Fact Sheet

# EPA Proposes New Test Procedures for Analyzing Pollutants in Wastewater and Sewage Sludge


## Summary

*EPA is proposing new test procedures for laboratories to use in Clean Water Act (CWA) monitoring programs. This proposal would add new and revised analytical methods for the bacteria E. coli and enterococci found in wastewater, and fecal coliforms and Salmonella found in sewage sludge.*


## Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves laboratory test procedures that are used to measure the amount of chemical, biological, and radiological pollutants in a sample. These approved analytical methods are published in the Code of Federal Regulations and available for laboratories to use.

### What Methods is EPA Proposing?

EPA is proposing to add new and revised test methods for analyzing the bacteria *E. coli* and enterococci in wastewaters, and fecal coliforms and *Salmonella* in sewage sludge. EPA is requesting comment on the technical merit, applicability and implementation of these proposed methods. In addition, EPA is asking for comments and data to be submitted on any other analytical methods that examines these bacteria in wastewater or sewage sludge.

## Why is EPA Proposing These Methods?

The Agency is proposing new test methods in response to comments received on two previous rulemakings. The commentors requested that EPA make approved bacterial methods available for wastewater. Approving these methods will help states to implement monitoring requirements under the BEACH Act of 2000 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. EPA is also proposing to revise test methods for fecal coliforms and *Salmonella* in sewage sludge. This is based on results from studies conducted by nationwide laboratories showing that the method provides comparable and acceptable results in multiple laboratory settings. These revised test methods include new quality control criteria that can be used by laboratories to demonstrate that the data generated are acceptable measures of performance.

## Additional Information and Copies

For further information concerning this proposed rule, please contact Robin K. Oshiro at the U.S. EPA Office of Water, Engineering and Analysis Division (4303T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20460; (e-mail: Oshiro.Robin@epa.gov).

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